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Christine "Chris" Kyker Papers, 1946-2017

Chris Kyker

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Preferred Citation

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**Christine “Chris” Kyker
Papers, (1946-2017)**

Center for Restoration Studies
Manuscripts #487

Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives
Brown Library
Abilene Christian University
Abilene, TX 79699-9208

21 January 2020

About this collection

Title: Christine “Chris” Kyker Papers, 1946-2017

Creator: Jewell Christine “Chris” (White) Kyker, 1925-2017

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #487

Physical Description: 175 linear feet (160 boxes)

Dates (Inclusive): 1946-2017

Dates (Bulk): 1950-2016

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English

Scope and Content Note: This collection consists of documents created by Chris Kyker in her career as a professor of speech, communication, and theater at Abilene Christian University and a member of Women of ACU; as an advocate for public policy respecting aging, mental health, and disability; and as an executive in nonprofit agencies and in Texas state agencies for the benefit of older persons, persons with disabilities, and persons with mental illness. The collection includes correspondence, academic papers, policy documents she developed in a variety of nonprofit and state leadership positions, religious studies, fundraising materials, pamphlets, programs, and memorabilia from advocacy campaigns and conferences, photographs and awards. Also in the collection are papers of Chris Kyker’s husband, Rex Paxton Kyker (1912-1996), professor of speech at ACU; and of their colleagues in the speech and theater department, Lewis and Jerilyn “Jerry” Fulks.

Biographical Note: Chris was born Jewell Christine White to L. E. and Grace (Wrye) White on March 30, 1925 in Temple, Texas. She graduated from Lubbock High School in 1942. She earned three degrees from ACU: B.A. in English (1946), M.S. in Secondary Teaching (1959), and M. A. in Communication (1960). She married Rex Paxton Kyker in 1946. She joined the ACU faculty in 1946 and served as a professor and director of theatre. She was asked by the Governor of Texas to establish the Texas Department on Aging. She also was the founding director of the West Central Texas Area Agency on Aging; founding president/CEO of Disability Resources, Inc. of Abilene; founding consultant, Rainbow Omega Inc; executive director of Abilene Mental Health Association; and was a board member of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature foundation, and was a member, speaker, and speaker emeritus of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature. She received ACU’s Distinguished Alumni Citation in 1980 and a Lifetime Achievement award from Texas Gov. Rick Perry in 2007. She died in Abilene on September 13, 2017. See also tribute [ACU Remembers Chris Kyker](#).

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Gift of sons Rob Kyker and Ricky Kyker; daughters Lindy Fullerton and Dr. Jan Bryan.

Date of Acquisition: November 30, 2017

Accession Number: 2019.011

Date of Accession: April 29, 2019

Accessioned by: Carisse Mickey Berryhill

Processor and Date of Processing: Carisse Berryhill, Daniel Lozano, April 29, 2019

Finding Aid Creator and Date: Carisse Berryhill, 21 January 2020

Using this collection

Processing Status: Processed

Conditions Governing Access: Materials are housed in the Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

Conditions Governing Use: Permission to publish, quote or reproduce items from this collection must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred citation: [identification of item], [file or folder name], Chris Kyker Papers, 1946-2017. Center for Restoration Studies MS#487. Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library. Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX.

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Arrangement of Materials: The original order of materials was retained in the files. The materials are arranged in four series: Series I: Chris Kyker papers; Series II: Rex Kyker Papers; Series III: Lewis and Jerry Fulks papers; Series IV: Artifacts (many oversized).

Separated Materials: Oversize framed materials.

Subjects

Aging and old age

Texas Silver Haired Legislature

Aging -- United States -- Congresses

Aging -- United States -- Legislation

Disability
Mental Health
Social advocacy
Texas Department of Aging
West Central Texas Area Agency on Aging
Disability Resources, Inc.
Rainbow Omega, Inc.
Abilene Mental Health Association
Abilene Christian University
Theater
Correspondence
Ephemera
Manuscripts
Memorabilia

Inventory

Series number	Subseries No.	Series Title	Subseries Title	Number of boxes	Box number
I	A	Chris Kyker papers	Personal correspondence	6	1-6
I	B	Chris Kyker papers	Academic papers	9	7-15
I	C	Chris Kyker papers	Texas Agencies	34	16-49
I	D	Chris Kyker papers	Texas Silver Haired Legislature	25	50-74
I	E	Chris Kyker papers	Local govt & nonprofits:		
I	E1	Chris Kyker papers	Disability Resources, Inc.	4	75-78
I	E2	Chris Kyker papers	Rainbow Omega, Inc.	1	79
I	E3	Chris Kyker papers	Mayor's Task Force (Abilene, TX)	1	80
I	E4	Chris Kyker papers	WWYC	1	81
I	E5	Chris Kyker papers	PIRC	2	82-83
I	E6	Chris Kyker papers	Pruett Gerontology Center	1	84
I	E7	Chris Kyker papers	Christian Village of Abilene	1	85
I	E8	Chris Kyker papers	Class of 1946 reunion	1	86
I	F	Chris Kyker papers	Church	1	87
I	G	Chris Kyker papers	WACU	2	88-89
II		Rex Kyker papers		18	90-107
III		Lewis and Jerry Fulks papers		5	108-112
IV		Artifacts		9	113-121
		plus many oversized items, not boxed			